

Remarks

The Office Action dated January 8, 2008 has been reviewed carefully and the application amended in a sincere effort to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of the claims, and allowance of the same, are respectfully requested on the basis of the following remarks.

Upon entry of this response, claims 1-2, 6-19, 21-47, and 51-52 will be pending in the application.

Claims 1, 23, and 32 have been amended. Claims 3-5, 20, and 48-50 have been cancelled.

Rejection of Claims 1, 23, and 32 under 35 USC 112

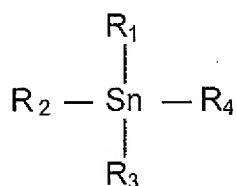
The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 23, and 32 for allegedly being indefinite under 35 USC 112.

In response to the Examiner's rejection, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 23, and 32 to address the Examiner's contentions that the recitation of "an aqueous medium" in the claim body is confusing as to its similar recitation in the preamble of the claims.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 16-19, 23-27, 29-38, and 44-47 under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6-10, 16-19, 23-27, 29-38, and 44-47 under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by US Pat. No. 5,630,922 (hereinafter, referred to as Eswarakrishnan) or for allegedly being obvious under Eswarakrishnan under 35 USC 103(a).

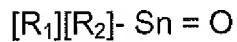
Eswarakrishnan was cited as disclosing the use of a diorganotin dicarboxylate catalyst that in an electrodedepositable coating composition that has the following formula:



wherein at least two of the R groups are carboxylate radicals (and wherein at least one of the carboxylate radicals contains 14 to 22 carbon atoms); and wherein the other two R groups are alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl.

The Examiner asserts that this catalyst could be "derived from" the catalyst as recited in claims 1, 23, and 32.

Rather than reciting that the catalyst can be "derived from" the structure depicted below, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 23, and 32 to recite that the catalyst recited in claims 1, 23, and 32 comprise the following structure:



wherein the R groups can be the same or different, and each independently represents a monovalent hydrocarbon group wherein the sum of the carbon atoms in R₁ and R₂ is greater than 8.

Because Eswarakrishnan does not disclose and/or suggest the using the catalyst having the formula recited in the pending claims in an electrodepositable coating composition, the Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1, 23, and 32 be withdrawn. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 23, and 32 and the claims that depend directly or indirectly therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 11-15, 28, and 39-43 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-15, 28, and 39-43 under 35 USC 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Eswarakrishnan in view of US Pat. No. 6,761,973 (hereinafter, referred to as Nishiguchi). Claims 11-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claim 28 depends directly from claim 23. Claims 39-43 depend directly or indirectly from claim 32.

The Examiner concedes that Eswarakrishnan fails to disclose that the curing agent can be blocked. Accordingly, the Examiner relies on Nishiguchi to teach this feature.

In general, Nishiguchi appears to disclose a cationic resin composition comprising (a) a cationic resin (A); and (b) a blocked polyisocyanate obtained by reacting an active hydrogen-containing component comprising a diol, a carboxyl group-containing diol, and a polyisocyanate compound. See Abstract. Nishiguchi, like Eswarakrishnan, does not disclose and/or suggest the organotin catalyst that is recited in claims 1, 23, and 32 of the present invention.

Therefore, the combination of Nishiguchi to Eswarakrishnan still does not disclose and/or suggest all of the features recited in the amended independent claims from which these claims depend. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing arguments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2, 6-19, 21-47, and 51-52 are in proper form for issuance of a Notice of Allowance and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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